MRAC Hamateur Chatter

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club

February 2016 Volume 25, Issue 2

100 Years, 1917—2017 The oldest Continuous Ham Radio Club in the Midwest

ARLD007 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by W3MHZ, QRZ DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

TUNISIA, 3V. Ashraf, KF5EYY will be QRV as 3V8SS from Sousse during the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Single Op/All Band/Low Power entry. QSL to LX1NO.

GUINEA, 3X. Operators Alain, F5OZC and Sebastien, F8DQZ are QRV as 3XY3D from Kassa Island, IOTA AF-051, until February 26. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using mainly CW with some SSB. QSL via F5OZC.

UGANDA, 5X. Eric, SM1TDE will be QRV as 5X8EW from Entebbe from February 23 to 26. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW. QSL to home call.

JAMAICA, 6Y. Yuri, VE3DZ is QRV as 6Y2T until February 21. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. He will be a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry in the ARRL International DX CW contest. QSL to home call.

BARBADOS, 8P. Tom, W2SC will be QRV as 8P5A in the ARRL International DX CW contest as Single Op/ All Band/High Power entry. QSL direct to NN1N.

BAHAMAS, C6. Operators N4UM, K4RUM and N4BP are QRV as C6ARU, C6AUM and C6AKQ, respectively, from Abaco Island, IOTA NA-080, until February 21. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using mainly CW with some RTTY, other digital modes, and possibly SSB. Each operator will be QRV in the ARRL International DX CW contest as Single Band entries on 20, 40, and 80 meters, respectively. QSL direct to home calls.

MEXICO, XE. A group of operators are QRV as XF2L from Isla de Sacrificios, IOTA NA-224, until February 19. Look for XE1AY to be QRV in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Single Op/Single Band on 20 meter entry. QSL via operators' instructions.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Elvira, IV3FSG is here working on the project of Informatici Senza Frontiere ONLUS and QRV in her spare time as XT2SE until March 13. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and various digital modes. QSL via IK3GES.

VENEZUELA, YV. YV1KK will be QRV as 4M1K in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Single Op/Single Band entry. QSL via OH0XX.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Dan, N6MJ is QRV as ZF2MJ. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters. He will be active in the ARRL International DX CW contest as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry. QSL to home call.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL International DX CW Contest, NCCC RTTY Sprint, QRP 80-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC Sprint CW Ladder, Novice Rig CW Roundup, SARL 40-Meter Youth Day SSB Sprint, South American Lighthouse Weekend, Russian PSK World Wide Contest and the Feld Hell Sprint will certainly keep contesters busy this upcoming weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for February 20.

The UKEICC 80-Meter CW Contest, CWops Mini-CWT CW Test, Phone Fray, QRP 40-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NAQCC CW

Sprint and SKCC CW Sprint are scheduled for February 22.

Please see February QST, page 99, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest web sites for details.
NNNN
/EX

MRAC Officers:

Terms Expiring in 2018

- President – Dave, KA9WXN
- V-President– Dan, N9ASA
- Secretary – MBH, KC9CMT
- Treasurer – MBH,,KC9CMT

Terms Expiring in 2017

- Director – Al, KC9IJJ
- Director – Vacant
- Director – Tom, W9TJP
- Director--Dale, AB9DW

The Club Phone Number is: (414) 332-MRAC or

(414) 332- 6 7 2 2

Visit our website at:

www.w9rh.org

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Board of Director's Minutes

Board of directors meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by Dave Shank, KA9WXN club president.

Director's present: Michael KC9CMT, Dave KA9WXN, Dale, AB9DW Al, KC9IJJ, Tom W9TJP by Video conference.

Absent: Dan N9ASA, two vacancies on the board.

Preliminary Discussion: The Treasurers report for November/December 2016 was presented by Michael, KC9CMT. The treasurers report was approved as read by KC9CMT, a motion to accept was made by Dale AB9DW, seconded by Al, KC9IJJ. The December balance ended with $19,966.20 in Club accounts. New member certificates will be mailed if not handed out when they become available. The PayPal account has been discontinued due to a $5 inactivity fee being assessed by the Bank. The MRAC phone bill was discussed.
A written agreement will have to be formulated with the tower owner, Dave, to facilitate usage. Payments will have to be made before January 30th to Redemption Lutheran Church, the U.S. Postal service, and the State of Wisconsin for an incorporation fee.

Meeting Presentations: The January presentation will be conducted by Dave, who will be discussing the 100th anniversary year events. February may be our food meeting, potluck, Dave & Al will be working on providing the logistics behind the meal. Kermit Carlson, the ARRL Midwest Division Manager, will be the guest speaker for our March meeting. The April meeting will be our annual election, in addition to a presentation on Radio Astronomy. May 2017 will be the annual club auction. The people from Milwaukee solar energy will be invited to give a presentation for the June meeting. Another good topic is lightening protection. The Ham Radio Outlet retailer is willing to have a out-of-trunk swapfest May 20th of 2017, 8-1 pm. The club is considering changing locations for the Board meeting. Somewhere closer to the city, perhaps the HRO store.

Field Day: Field day went well at the MATC facility. MATC has both port-a-potties and hand wash stations at the location. It's a good location, but may not be available in 2017. The board would like to have a working committee for the 2017 field day effort. Tony, KAUDX is having his winter field day on January 28th, 2017. This is the third year that it is being held in Menominee Park. The board discussed donating funds if the participation of MARC members reach an appreciable level. The club will be asking the Lefrog group if they would like to join us for field day.

Special Project Committees & Committee reports:

Repeater Report: The club would like more than one repeater control operator. A club repeater control operator should be a extra class operator to have the kind of privileges that are necessary to operate field day to its fullest extent. We have been paying DSL with 5 static IP addresses/ $95 a month. Annually, the bill is 1,848.81. As of January 20, 2017 there is a dish bringing in a microwave signal from a different circuit that the tower owner is using. The club is not using a land line anymore, but Google voice. The tower owner pays $168.50/month for services, which can be divided among users. The tower owners internet service costs $2018.80 a year. This will also be divided up among a base of users. With all the users in the base, our costs could drop to $24 or so a month, which is a big savings to the club. The Board of directors' has approved paying the tower owner up to $400 per year for service, as a one time yearly payment.

New Business: The new logo patches has been finalized. Dave, KA9WXN is continuing discussions regarding events for the clubs' 2017 100th anniversary. through Saturday. Locations and dates are still being discussed as to the 100th anniversary Banquet. The banquet would have to be catered. Kermit Carlson will be the featured speaker at the banquet, tentative date October 21st, 2017.

We need to start planning special event stations for the entire year of 2017. Dave, KA9WXN will attempt to generate interest among the membership in forming a committee to handle planning. Dan, N9ASA has arranged with The House of Harley Davidson to have a special event station during their annual bash on June 17th, 2017. MakersFaire 2017 will be a special event station at the State Fair Park. We need to get a group together to work on staging this event. The board does want to go ahead with planning a banquet during the 100th anniversary year. Time and place to be determined. JOTA coordinator, KC9WW, Fred is helping the club to format an event at the Indian mounds, in Oconomowoc. The club wants new QSL cards reflecting our Anniversary.

Swapfest Committee: The club is looking at April 1st as the new MRAC/MAARS swapfest date. The club has booked the Elks lodge, across from HRO, for the April 1st swapfest. The board of directors' is now discussing a door prize of a dual band mobile radio. HRO is willing to give the club a price brake on a radio. The Elks club is a smaller venue, but will hold as many tables. We expect about 38 tables to be rented to vendors. A May out-of-trunk event at HRO is a possibility, May 21st being the date. The idea was forwarded to move the Swapfest to April 1st, as a guard against losses due to inclement weather. Name suggestion: "Spring Fling". 2017 will be our 7th annual swapfest.

Special Projects: A special event station will be June 17th, at Greenfield House of Harley dealership. The special event will run during the dealerships hours of operations. The club needs someone to take over the FM simplex contest for February of 2018. The club really needs PR and recruitment, business cards have been printed and will be handed out at all club activities. The board of director's has set a tentative date of October 21st, 2017 for the MRAC 100th anniversary banquet, to be catered for a crowd of 200. The club could send out invitations for the banquet. An August 19th lighthouse event is being worked on. A special event station at the lakefront is being worked on by Dave, KA9WXN. The club will be sending letters to former members asking if they would like to renew for 2017, our 100th anniversary year. This will allow our past members to take part in all the activities being planned. Dave, WB9BWP wants to send anniversary information to Gordon West for his weekly Ham Nation Broadcast.

A special event station at the War Memorial is being discussed. The club will use the club call of W9RH/100 for all our special events. The club would also like to have a membership drive for new members for 2017. There would be a special certificate for any new members of the club. The club needs to have some special QSL cards, or ridged certificates printed up for contacts during the calendar year of 2017. The club would like to query members about working on projects for the 100th anniversary. MakersFaire is on September 23-24th, 2017. JOTA 2017 will be another event the MRAC will be involved in. The club will be putting together a go kit for taking to various events.

Website update: The club has a Wiki page. Dave, KA9WXN has been working on a 100th anniversary page. The website has past newsletters on it and a calendar of coming events, along with club information.
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm by Al, KC9IJJ, seconded by Michael, KC9CMT. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

FLOODS COST LIVES AND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN PROPERTY DAMAGE EACH YEAR AROUND THE UNITED STATES

NOAA Reminds Everyone about Flood Safety Awareness

Across the United States each year many lives are taken or put at risk by flooding. In every state or territory floods destroy property costing billions of dollars annually. NOAA National Weather Service storm data show that on average floods kill more people every year than lightning, tornadoes and hurricanes.

How do you protect yourself against the dangers of floods? The NOAA National Weather Service has extensive tips and programs to help get the word out about flooding and ways to save lives and property.

Tom Graziano, acting chief of the NOAA Hydrologic Services Division, part of the National Weather Service, says the greatest tragedy about flooding deaths is that most of them can be avoided if people just didn't try to drive through flooded roads. "A lot of times when you approach a water-covered roadway you don't know how fast the water is moving. You don't know how deep it is. You don't even know if there's a roadbed underneath. In fact, it only takes about six inches of moving water to sweep a person off their feet, and as little as two feet of water to sweep an automobile, including SUVs, downstream."

Whether its ice jams, rapidly melting snow, torrential thunderstorms or slow-moving tropical storms, floods are a threat across the USA year round. Graziano said the NOAA National Weather Service continuously tries to educate the public about the dangers posed by floods and safety measures to protect life and property. He said that during the very intense 2005 Atlantic hurricane season, flooding associated with two hurricanes in particular, took hundreds of lives and caused property damage in the tens of billions of dollars. "What the numbers tells us that we're losing about over 100 people a year and in excess of four-and-a-half billion dollars in damages," said Graziano. "Now, that does not include Fiscal Year 2005 where the deaths and damages far exceed those numbers, and that's the direct result of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In fact, we on an annual basis compile the flood loss statistics for the Corps of Engineers, and our preliminary data for Fiscal Year 2005 indicated flood losses in excess of 40 billion dollars and the loss of life in the vicinity of a thousand folks. So, it was a particularly bad year in large part the results of the combine effects of those two hurricanes."

The NOAA National Weather Service has a public education and outreach program that informs people across the nation about weather-related hazards, including the threat posed by floods. In addition, Flood Safety Awareness Week, held in March, emphasizes the dangers of floods and what people can do to protect themselves. Graziano said, "There is a very real threat, and when people don't heed that threat or recognize that threat then often times the results can be disastrous. So, what we've done is we've begun this campaign called "Turn Around, Don't Drown" to educate and inform people that when they approach a water-covered roadway simply to turn around and drive the other way."

Graziano says there are a number of things people can do before a flood poses a risk, including having a NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards with fresh batteries. "Find out if you're located in a high, medium or low flood risk area. Check with your local, city or county government to find out if your community is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program. Start with the building or planning department to review flood insurance rate maps, which are published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Develop an evacuation plan," he said. Everybody in the family should know where to go if you have to leave, and make sure that after you develop it you discuss it with family members. Everybody should know what to do in case family members get separated. Determine if the roads that you normally travel to reach your home or job will be flooded during a storm."

Protecting life and property is the mission of the NOAA National Weather Service. Knowing what to do to protect yourself and loved ones from the dangers of floods before, during and after can save lives, reduce injuries and property damage. For more information about flooding, please visit the NOAA National Weather Service Web site at www.floodsafety.noaa.gov. **(**NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of the nation's coastal and marine resources.

Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners and nearly 60 countries to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes.

Working With High Voltage AC Power

- Don't -

Unless you are very familiar with the precautions and safety regulations that are in force in your area, do not work on high voltage AC portions of power supplies. Have a qualified technician help you or have them build this portion of the circuit for you.

Always include a 'Ground Fault Interrupter' in your household wiring or part of an extension cord to supply AC power to home built circuits.

Using Old Throttle Power Packs As Power Supplies For Electronics

- Don't -

The ones that came with inexpensive train sets will likely have no voltage regulation and may not have filter capacitors. Even the more expensive DC power packs should not be used to power electronic circuitry.

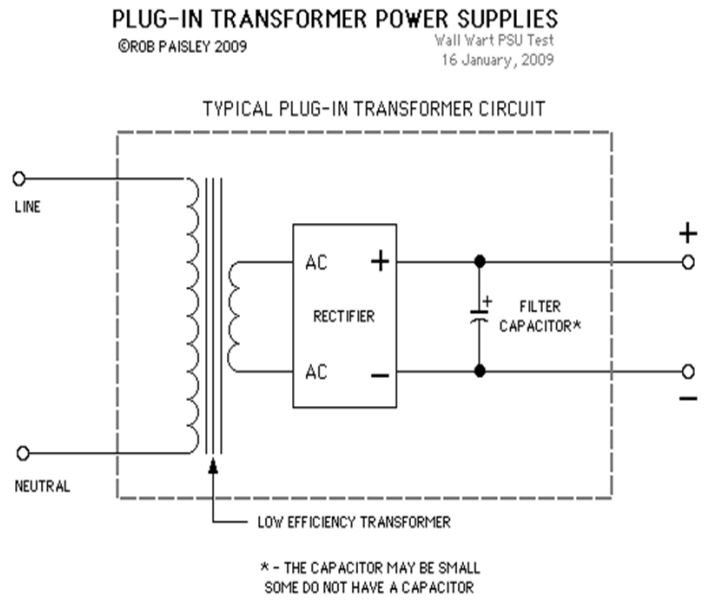
Using Plug-in Transformers (Wall Warts) As Power Supplies For Electronics

- OK, But -

Generally, plug-in transformers are OK but most of the smaller ones are poorly filtered and the voltage is not regulated. The output voltage may drop considerably, as the load current increases and the ripple voltage will increase as well.

Some plug-in transformers have no rectifiers or may not have filter capacitors. These transformers are not usable without an external rectifier and regulator circuit.

Using a plug-in transformer with a higher current and voltage rating than will be needed by the load and adding a regulator is a good way to make use of surplus transformers.



Using 9 Volt Batteries As Power For Electronics

- OK, But -

9 Volt batteries do not have much current capacity. If the circuit draws more than a few milliamps the battery will not last long. If the current draw is too high for the battery, the voltage from that battery will drop-off.

Laptop Computer Power Supplies.

An excellent source of high quality, regulated DC power supplies is AC power adapters for laptop PCs. The best choices are 12 and 15 volt models with a current capacity of 3 amps or greater.

Power supplies with 3 prong plugs should be avoided unless a grounded output is needed. The Toshiba brand supplies are more likely to have the 2 prong power cord that is desirable for use on model railroads and for testing power supplies.

15 volt power supplies would be ideal for home built DC throttles and accessory decoder boosters for DCC systems.

Even though these power supplies have built in overcurrent protection, a fuse should be used at their outputs as the internal protection may pass more current than the downstream circuits can handle.

Used laptop power supplies can be can be purchased inexpensively at many computer and electronics recycling facilities. (Have them tested before purchasing.)

Other Power Supplies.

Another regulated, high current power supply that may be useful are those from of similar to PYRAMID Regulated Power Supplies. These supplies are often used for automobile battery substitution circuits.

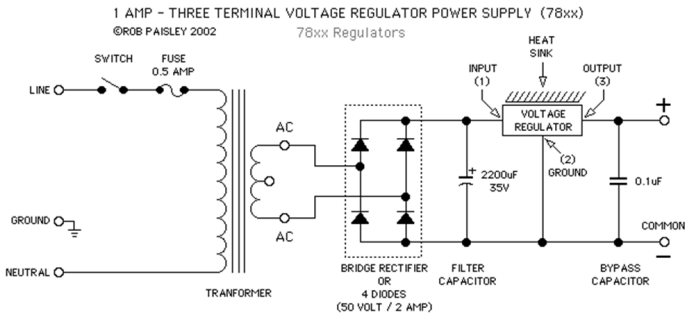
The battery substitution supplies have an output that is fixed at 13.8 volts DC but are available in a variety of current ratings.

Regulated Power Supply Circuits

The circuits on this page are for various regulated power supplies.

Iron core transformers and bridge rectifiers are shown in the circuits but these could be replaced by 15 volt laptop power supplies as mentioned above.

Fixed Voltage Regulators
5 Or 12 Volt Supply



RECOMMENDED VALUES

OUTPUT	TRANFORMER SECONDARY	1 AMP REGULATOR
12 VOLTS	18 VAC	LM7812
5 VOLTS	9 VAC (2 AMP)	LM7805

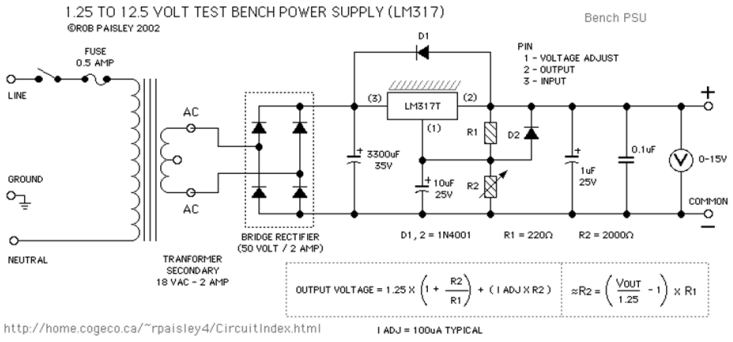
- THE VOLTAGE REGULATOR WILL NEED A HEAT SINK SUCH AS - JAMECO 70771 - DIGIKEY HS278-ND OR HS116-ND
- THE 78xx SERIES REGULATORS ARE SELF PROTECTING AGAINST OVER CURRENT AND OVER HEATING.

http://home.cogeco.ca/~rpaisley4/CircuitIndex.html

DO NOT CONNECT THE GROUND OF THE AC POWER TO THE COMMON OF THE POWER SUPPLY

A Test Bench Power Supply

The next circuit is a classic on every LM317 datasheet. It's simple, reliable and a great place to start on building more advanced circuits.



DO NOT CONNECT THE GROUND OF THE AC POWER TO THE COMMON OF THE POWER SUPPLY

Test Bench Power Supply Schematic

The schematic is for a general purpose, variable voltage power supply. It is ideal for designing circuits or testing locomotives at the workbench.

The output is adjustable between 1.25 and 13.5 Volts with a maximum current limit of 1.5 Amps. The LM317K regulator is internally protected from current and thermal overloads. A heat sink will be required for most applications however.

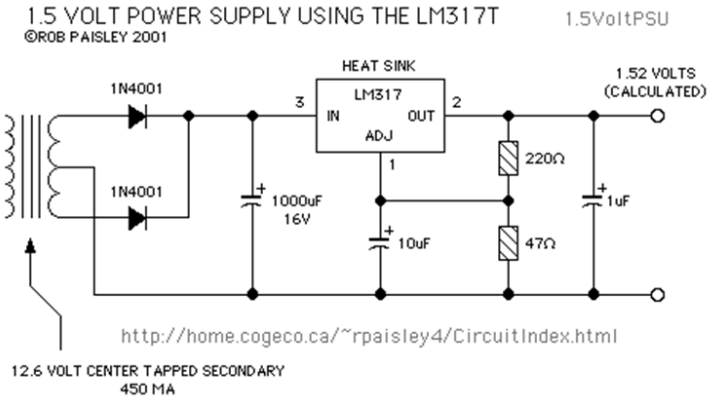
The values of R1 and R2 are not critical but R1 should not be larger than 270 ohms. For a fixed voltage output R2 should be selected to give the desired maximum output voltage for a given R1 value or vise versa. See the calculation on the drawing.

The diodes D1 and D2 in the circuit prevent damage to the regulator during certain adverse conditions such as the output voltage being higher than the input voltage to the regulator or the capacitor across R2 from discharging through the adjustment terminal of the regulator. These conditions will be rare but ten cents worth of protection can save the cost of a new regulator.

An Ammeter could be added to the circuit by placing it between the filter capacitor and the input terminal of the regulator. The ammeter circuit located at the following link would work well for this purpose.

1.5 Volt Power Supply - LM317

This circuit is for a 1.5 Volt power supply using the LM317T Adjustable Voltage Regulator.



1.5 Volt Power Supply schematic

Please Read Before Using These Circuit Ideas

The explanations for the circuits on these pages cannot hope to cover every situation on every layout. For this reason be prepared to do some experimenting to get the results you want. This is especially true of circuits such as the "Across Track Infrared Detection" circuits and any other circuit that relies on other than direct electronic inputs, such as switches.

If you use any of these circuit ideas, ask your parts supplier for a copy of the manufacturers data sheets for any components that you have not used before. These sheets contain a wealth of data and circuit design information that no electronic or print article could approach and will save time and perhaps damage to the components themselves. These data sheets can often be found on the web site of the device manufacturers.

Although the circuits are functional the pages are not meant to be full descriptions of each circuit but rather as guides for adapting them for use by others. If you have any questions or comments please send them to the email address on the Circuit Index page.

LZ SWINGER
The 1/92nd Field Artillery
Vietnam
A BATTLE ABOVE THE PLEI TRAP VALLEY

BY LEE THOMPSON

Note: LZ Swinger was on top of Chu Hing Mountain. A 729-meter (2187 ft.) perch overlooking the Plei Trap Valley approximately 10 kilometers from the Cambodian border.

Moving In

They told us it was a "cold LZ"...right!

It was a cold, drizzly morning...late February 69 when we huddled on the chopper pad at LZ Bass, waiting to head out for LZ Swinger. Six Huey's full of "hard-fisters" were set to fly into Swinger and clean up the deserted NVA FSB and get it ready for Charlie Battery, 1/92. We were moving out near the Cambodian border to help prevent NVA infiltration into Vietnam. The initial plan called for elements of the 4th Infantry Division to meet us there and supply perimeter support. Our mission was to provide support to the 4th Infantry while they swept the valley looking for spooks.

I was scheduled to board the 3rd or 4th bird. All of the six were to take off at 5min intervals. I don't remember why. So, 10 minutes after the first bird left, I was preparing to head out. It was then that the plan went south in a hurry. The pilot from the first chopper called back and said the guys on Swinger were under heavy fire. The first bird had landed and off-loaded. As it was on its way back...and the 2nd bird hovered to land...the hill came alive with small arms fire.

Many of you will recall that Swinger is a long narrow hilltop, shaped like an hourglass. The hilltop sloped softly to the south so the chopper pad was on the high end to the north. That end fell off steeply into the jungle on the north and west, and sloped off in a narrow trail into the jungle to the east. The Redlegs on the first bird had decided to wait on the pad and smoke until more birds arrived. Obviously, no adult leadership! Well, as the 2nd bird approached they got up to make way, moving southward down the gentle slope of the hilltop. As the 2nd bird off-loaded, NVA regulars opened up with ferocious fire. One KIA for the good guys immediately. The rest of the birds were held at LZ Bass until somebody could figure out what to do.

For about an hour, our brave cannoneers acted like grunts, and stood their ground. I wish I could recall the names of those heroes. After intense, close quarter fighting, they achieved victory, and the initial fighting was over 32 NVA bodies were recovered. As my bird landed, the dust was finally settling. Talk about adrenaline! Some guys were still pumped when I arrived. I discovered a 51mm anti-aircraft gun off the edge of the hill in a bunker. It was aimed in the direction our birds had flown, but had jammed and was useless. What an act of God!

Settling Down

A couple of days after we arrived, we began getting sniper fire from the tree line off the east side of the north end off the hill. The grunts sent a four-man team down to smoke him out. I was sitting on a pile of sandbags...fascinated. About 3 minutes after they entered the tree line I heard "POP, POP, POP!" I assumed we fired up the bad guy until a minute later two grunts came tearing out of the tree line yelling. TWO DOWN!

The Infantry NCOIC was standing next to me when the two guys came running up to him in a panic. He settled them down, grabbed another couple of grunts and sent them down to extract the downed soldiers. Four went in...it seemed like and eternity. I hear another couple of "POP, POP, POPs" and soon saw the four grunts dragging two wounded guys out of the tree line. As they dragged them up to where I was sitting, the NCOIC yelled at another four men to gear up and go down after that sniper. Meanwhile, their medic was attending to the wounded. I recall one was shot in the knee, and was crying in extreme pain, "I don't want to die!" The other kid was silent and pale. He had a bullet in his chest. He looked into the sky with a vacant stare, and breathed with severe difficulty.

I knew he was dying. I wondered why a chaplain wasn't there to pray with him. I believe it was at that precise moment that God called me to serve Him as a military chaplain.

The third team was down in the trees and got fired up. One went down, and the other three scrambled back up the hill to the NCOIC. As he surveyed the situation, he looked at me and said "Go down with this guy and get that guy out of there." I responded..."I'm a Redleg!" He said, "not now, you're not!"

I told him I didn't have my gun (weapon, for you lifers) or helmet. I nearly puked as he handed me an M-16 and helmet, both drenched in blood. "Here," he shouted, "now, get going!" As I slowly made my way down the trail to the trees, I looked at the kid with me. He had to be at least 12! I asked, "Have you ever done this before?" He responded hesitantly, "no." GREAT! I said "You watch the ground, I'll watch the trees, kill anything that moves!" With that strategy, we picked our way down the trail till it came to a sharp bend. I had a hunch, there was trouble so I got down and slowly crawled to the bend in the trail. As I peeked around, I saw our grunt...down, but alive...not moving. The big decision now was...how do I get him without becoming a statistic myself? The other kid and I finally decided we had to just **do it**. We couldn't see any sign of a bad guy so I asked him to cover me while I crept forward...nothing. The bad guy was apparently gone. I scurried up to the downed guy to see if I could drag him back. He must have weighed 300lbs! I was 120lbs, so it wasn't gonna happen! I sent the other kid back up

for some help and I waited. That entire time, the WIA never moved. He was unconscious.

A few minutes later, three guys arrived with a stretcher. We loaded the WIA up and hauled him back up the hill. By the time we got him there...he was KIA. And, I was no longer a 20 year old kid from Minnesota. I'd aged years! That was my baptism under fire and I'll never forget it. I knew why I liked being a Redleg! The Air Force arrived shortly and saturated the trees with napalm. The sight was mesmerizing. I'm on record as saying, "thank God for DOW Chemical!" No bad guy could survive that, long enough to hurt me!

THE DAILY GRIND

Within days we started getting "incoming" every time a chopper would try to set down on the pad. It took its toll. Two or three rounds and silence. Virtually every time we took casualties. We all were getting jumpy. Eventually we got into the habit of dropping into a bunker as soon as a bird got close. Even that didn't always help.

One morning, after an incident I saw the medic leaning against some sandbags puking his guts out. He was white as a sheet. I, of course, figured something happened. When I asked him, he explained that two of our infantry guys had jumped into a bunker for cover, and a mortar jumped right in behind them. They couldn't even figure out who they were at first. I remember feeling good when I found out they weren't my Redlegs.

Another morning we took casualties. I don't remember how it all happened...it went so quickly. I vividly recall a "cherry" jumping off the slick...with a bewildered look...just as a mortar round impacted. He took some shrapnel in the chest and they just threw him back in the chopper. He was in country what? Three days? And he was going home...if he survived.

The Infantry sent out LP's (Listening posts) every night. In FDC we would monitor their radio. They would key their radio mikes every hour to let us know they were OK. One particular night...about 0300...we stopped getting signals from the LP down south. When the infantry went down, after sunup to check, they found all four with their throats slit. Everybody freaked. It hadn't occurred to us that anybody was interested in getting that close. The next night we got movement on the wire, and it all hit the fan. We called in Spooky (now, there's a beautiful sight!) for air support and just threw as much lead out as we could. I had an M-79 and was popping rounds as fast as I could. When the silence set in we were all terrified. All we could think about was sappers. Nothing...just silence. Just as the sun was coming up I heard some distant moaning outside the wire. It took ages before we got permission to go out and investigate. We found a wounded NVA soldier. We brought him in and tried to nurse his wounds. He had obviously taken some WP in the face 'cause it looked like his flesh was melting off. He was conscious, and scared to death. All I could think about was "how do I explain to this guy that I don't want to hurt him?" We fed him some applesauce out of our C-rats and shipped him back to Pleiku.

My worst day on Swinger was Mar 10, 1969. It was early, and a resupply bird was inbound. I got a call in FDC that "Sugar Bear" was on board. He and I had been close friends before he went back to the rear. Funny thing...I don't even remember his given name. He was being shipped home so was taking one last trip out to say goodbye. As soon as I heard the bird, I jumped out of FDC and headed up to the pad. The slick was settling in and I was almost on the pad. For some reason my eye caught sight of something in a bunker. It was a brand new Time Magazine. "Huh?" I immediately dove in to get it. It would never be there when I got back. Just as I landed in the bunker, two rounds impacted on the pad. Six casualties.

"Medic!" was being screamed immediately. I popped my head up and peered toward the helo pad. There was dust, and confusion everywhere. All of a sudden I thought "where's Sugar Bear?" I saw a guy jump in next to me and I asked him. He didn't know anything. I jumped out of the bunker and ran to the pad. There were four guys sitting there in all states of damage. I remember one kid's shirt was off and his back looked like hamburger. He was crying. Another kid had crapped in his pants. I thought he must be embarrassed. I looked over next to some empty canisters and saw Sugar Bear. His helmet was off and half his head was missing. His eyes had blown out of their sockets and both his hands were scraped clear to the bones. They looked like skeleton hands. I checked for vital signs and he was breathing so I began to attempt first aid.

But...where do you begin? Out of nowhere somebody handed me a breathing tube. I put it down his throat so he could breathe easier. I worked on him for 45 minutes. Carefully bandaging all his wounds, always checking his vitals. Shallow breathing...weak pulse. But he never quit. Eventually his breathing was so shallow I could barely detect it and I could no longer feel a pulse. By this time the "Dust off" birds were coming in and I had Sugar Bear covered with a poncho to keep the dust and sand off him. A grunt colonel came up to me and asked me if I wanted to put him on a bird. I knew the drill: Casualties with likelihood of surviving were first. I asked the colonel if there was any space left, and he said "no, but I can make space." With tears in my eyes I told him we could wait for the next bird.

I was awarded a Bronze Star w/ "V". For what? I didn't do anything the rest of you wouldn't have done.

Still...My head told me, I made the right decision, but some days my heart still wonders. The Lee Thompson who came down off that hill, was not the same Lee Thompson that went up a month earlier.

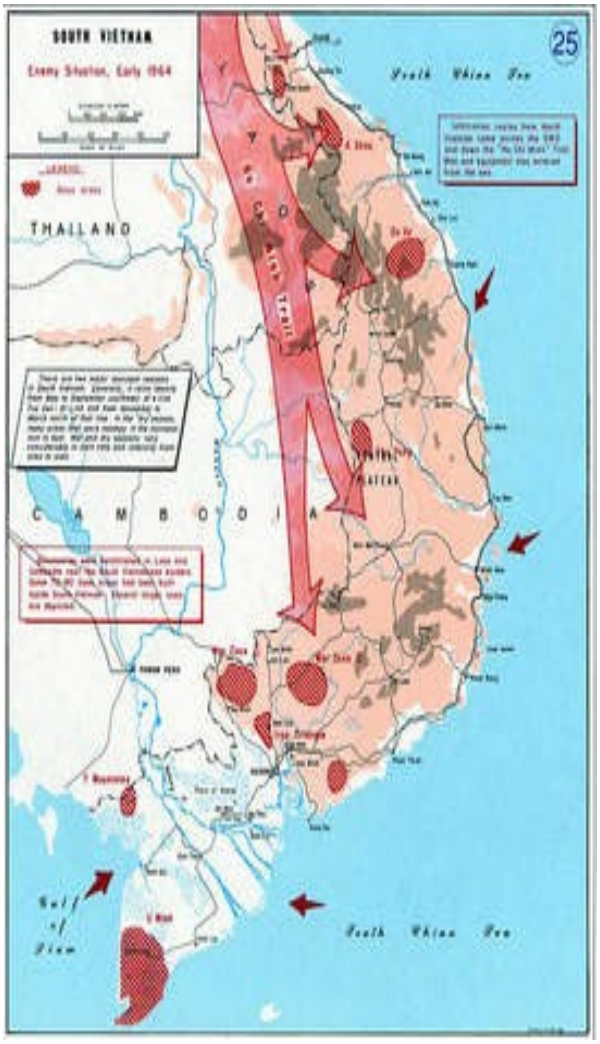
THE BRIGHTER SIDE

Everything wasn't always such a downer. We'd often play poker at night in FDC. Different players would come and go, but Lt Livingston seemed to always want to play. Over time I was very lucky. I had built up savings of over $3,000. I was saving to by a new car when I got home. One night Lt Livingston was having bad luck. We were playing Black Jack for $5 a hand. He was down $50 and was getting angry. He decided we should play for $10 a hand. I said "it's a bad idea Sheila...you're just gonna lose twice as fast."

He hated being called Sheila, but it's how we felt about him. Like an obedient Sp4, I complied. $150 later he asked me if he could have his money back. No, he wasn't kidding! Sheila asked me what I was going to do with my money. I told him I was dreaming of a Dodge Charger. I showed him pictures, and he got all excited. He told me he was gonna get one too. On Lt.'s pay I figured he could swing it. A few days later he got a letter from his wife. The car died and she bought a new Dodge Dart. He was all bummed. "Now I can't get a Charger" he whined. "are you kidding?" I cried. "Tell her to take the damned car back. She never got your permission to by a DART!" Sheila whipped off an angry letter to his wife. (Who was the kid who owned the GTX?) A couple of weeks later he got another letter from his wife. She basically said "sit on it and spin!" I wonder if he ever found out who popped purple smoke in his hootch. I don't think it was me...I'm not sure.

But, I was there and it was hysterical. Actually...I got a little nervous when he came screaming out of his hootch coated with purple...gasping for breath! We got a new Lt., Sheila moved on. This guy had a screw loose. One night I was working up H&I fire. A sixteen point grid. The book says to compute the mission one column at a time...top to bottom, left to right. One of you gun bunnies asked me why they couldn't be shot left to right...for some reason it was easier. It seemed good to me. Anyway, back to the Lt. He asked me what I was doing and I told him "H&I's." "You're doing it wrong" he said. "You're supposed to do it up and down, left to right." I explained how it was easier on the gun bunnies this way and he basically said "Screw the cannon-cockers! You do it the way I tell you." I patiently said I wouldn't…

He was new and I knew what I was doing. You've gotta hear this..."If I tell you to do this in red ink...you'll do it in red ink! I'm the Lt!" Well, I laid my pencil down and said "I quit" I walked out of FDC and went down to see Lt Allin, the XO. After listening to me he gave a chuckle and said "I don't really think you can quit, Hardcore." I know two things about that. I never did a mission in red ink, and I never computed an H&I the way the book said. I wonder what ever happened to that cherry Lt?



ARRL Newsline

Dear ARRL Central Division Members,

For over 18 years Mr. Gregory Clark, K9IG, of Franklin, Indiana has served as the Central Division's representative to the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee (CAC). Having been appointed by Mr. Ed Metzger W9PRN in 1999, K9IG has been recognized as a guiding presence on this important body. His work on this Committee has helped the decision-making process of the ARRL Board regarding HF Contesting during the term of three Central Division Directors. Greg has announced his retirement from this committee position effective today. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for his service to the League and amateur radio over the past two decades. Thank you Greg !

I am a pleased to announce that Mr. Craig Thompson, K9CT, of Trivoli, Illinois has accepted the appointment as the ARRL Central Division Representative to the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee. Craig's accomplishments in amateur radio contesting includes many first place contest finishes and he holds several contest records. Craig is an ARRL Life Member, a member of the NIDXA, CW ops, A-1 Operators, the Maxim Society, and he is Board member of the NCDXF. Craig also presently serves as the President of the Society of Midwest Contesters.

I look forward to working with Craig as part of the ARRL Central Division team.

73, Kermit Carlson W9XA

ARRL Central Division

Director: Kermit A Carlson, W9XA

w9xa@arrl.org

Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, February 23rd, 2017,** at 7:00PM. We meet in the Fellowship Hall of Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 N Mayfair Road. Use the south entrance. Access the MRAC Yahoo group for important details about the February Meeting.

Meeting Schedule:

March 30th, 7 pm

Please do not call the church for information!

Club Nets

Please check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

Our ten meter SSB net is at **8:00 p.m.** at **28.490 MHz USB** Our two meter FM net follows at **9:00 p.m**. on our repeater at **145.390 MHz** with a minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz.**

Visit our website at: **www.w9rh.org**

Or phone (414)-459-9741

Name of Net, Frequency, Local Time	Net Manager
Badger Weather Net (BWN) 3984 kHz, 0500	W9IXG
Badger Emergency Net (BEN) 3985 kHz, 1200	NX9K
Wisconsin Side Band Net (WSBN) 3985 or 3982.5 kHz, 1700	KB9KEG
Wisconsin Novice Net (WNN) 3555 kHz, 1800	KB9ROB
Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (WSSN) 3555 kHz, Sn, T, Th, F, 1830	N1KSN
Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Early (WIN-E) 3555 kHz, 1900	WB9ICH
Wisconsin Intrastate Net - Late (WIN-L) 3555 kHz, 2200	W9RTP
ARES/RACES Net 3967.0 kHz, 0800 Sunday	WB9WKO
* Net Control Operator needed. Contact Net Manager for information.	

VE Testing:

February 25th, 9:30am— 11:30am

No testing: June, August or December

ALL testing takes place at: Ham Radio Outlet 5720 W. Good Hope Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53223

Area Swapfests

March 11th Amateur Equipment Auction Location: Eau Claire, WI Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://www.ecarc.org

Sunday, March 19th, Hamfest 2017 Location: Jefferson, WI Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Tri County Amateur Radio Club - W9MQB
Website: http://www.w9mqb.org

MRAC Working Committees
100th Anniversary:

- Dave—KA9WXN

Net Committee:

- Open

Field Day

Dave—KA9WXN, Al—KC9IJJ

FM Simplex Contest

- Joe – N9UX
- Jeff – K9VS

Raffle

- Tom – N9UFJ

Newsletter Editor

- Michael-KC9CMT
- Pancho– KA9OFA

Webmaster

- Dave, KA9WXN

Refreshments

- Open

Welcome

Membership Information

The Hamateur Chatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct. MRAC Membership dues are $17.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1st. MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00PM the last Thursday of the month except for November when Thanksgiving falls on the last Thursday when the meeting moves forward 1 week to the 3rd Thursday and December, when the Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting. Club Contact Information

Our website address **http://www.w9rh.org**

Telephone **(414)-459-9741**

Address correspondence to:

MRAC, PO Box 26233, Milwaukee, WI 53226-0233

Email may be sent to: **w9rh@arrl.net .** Our YAHOO newsgroup:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MRAC-W9RH/

CLUB NETS:

- The Six Meter SSB net is Thursday at 8:00PM on 50.160 MHz USB
- Our Ten Meter SSB net is Friday at 8:00PM on 28.490 MHz ± 5 KHz USB.
- Our Two Meter FM net follows the Ten meter net at 9:00PM on our repeater at 145.390MHz - offset (PL 127.3)

Chatter Deadline

The **DEADLINE** for items to be published in the **Chatter** is the **15th of each month**. If you have anything (announcements, stories, articles, photos, projects) for the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then.

You may contact me or Submit articles and materials by e-mail at: W9rhmrac@Gmail.com

or by Post to:

Michael B. Harris

807 Nicholson RD

South Milwaukee, WI 53172-1447

Milwaukee Area Nets

Mon.8:00 PM 3.994 Tech Net

Mon.8:00 PM 146.865- ARRL Newsline

Mon.8:00 PM 146.445+ Emergency Net

Mon.8:00 PM 146.865- Walworth County ARES net

Mon. 8:00 PM 442.100+ Railroad net, also on EchoLink

Mon. 8:45 PM 147.165- ARRL Audio News

Mon. 8:00 PM 442.875+ WIARC net also on EchoLink 576754

Mon. 8:30 PM 146.820 Waukesha ARES Net —

on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday of each month.

Mon. 9:00 PM 147.165– Milwaukee County ARES Net

Tue. 9:00 AM 50.160 6 Mtr 2nd Shifter's Net

Tue. 9:00 PM 145.130+ MAARS Hand Shakers Net

Tue. 8:00 PM 7.035 A.F.A.R. (CW)

Wed. 8:00 PM 145.130+MAARS Amateur Radio Newsline

Wed. 8:00 PM 147.045+ West Allis ARC net

Wed. 8:00 PM 28.365Mhz 10/10 International Net

Wed. 8:00 PM 147.270+ Racine County ARES net

Wed. 9:00 PM 145.130+MAARS SwapNet, Allstar FM-38

Thur. 8:00 PM 50.160, 6 Mtr SSB Net

Thur. 8:00 PM 443.800+ Tech Net

Thur. 9:00 PM 146.910+ Computer Net

Fri. 8:00 PM 28.490 MRAC W9RH 10 Mtr SSB Net

Fri. 9:00 PM 145.390+ W9RH 2 MTR. FM Net

Sat. 7:30 AM MW Classic Radio Net , Freq.—3885 AM

Sat. 8:00 PM 146.910+ YL's Pink HAMsters Net

Sat. 9:00 PM 146.910+ Saturday Night Fun Net

Saturday Night Yaesu Fusion Net 7:00 P.M., W9RH Repeater, C4FM digital mode, using "DN"', digital narrow mode

Sun 8:00 AM, State ARES Net 3967/3977.5/145.470

Sun 8:30 AM 3.985 QCWA (Chapter 55) SSB net

Sun 9:00 AM 145.565+ X-Country Simplex Group

Sun 8:00 PM 146.910+ Information Net

Sun 8:00 PM 28.365 10/10 International Net (SSB)

Sun 9:00 PM 146.910+ Swap Net

Daily: Milwaukee — Rag Chew Net: 7:00 AM, 3850 SSB + Florida Net 7 am, 14.290 mhz.

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz

SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 Mtr and above are USB.

Minnesota/Wisconsin Yaesu System Fusion, Wires-X Technical Net.
Monday Evenings 7:30 P.M. Local Time.

Sponsored By
BARS -Bakken Amateur Radio Society.
Where: On the MRAC repeater,
145.390MHz, Offset -600KHz, PL Tone encode of 127.3.
The Net is carried via a RF Node Link to Wires-X Room (21493) .
The net is held in the Digital Narrow (DN) mode.